

**ARIZONA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

**State Capitol Executive Tower, Suite 502 Conference Room  
1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Thursday, February 13, 2014 9:30 A.M.**

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**Commission Members Present:**

Billie Spurlin (phone)  
Buddy Rocha (phone)  
Dan Brooks  
Dave Castillo (phone)  
Derreck Wheeler (phone)  
Nathan Pryor (phone)  
Lucinda Hughes Juan (phone)

**Commission Members Absent:**

Leah Hubbard

**Staff Present:**

Kristine Fire Thunder  
Genevieve Medas

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Dawn Melvin  
Dawn Williams (phone)  
Mary Huyser

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

Courtney Coolidge  
Debora Norris  
Keith Watkins  
Michael Allison  
Misty Klann

**Members of the Public Present:**

Beriah Steiner, AZ Dept of Gaming  
George Anderson, AZ Dept of Public Safety  
Peter Denetclaw, Freeport McMoran  
Rene White, AZ Department of Juvenile Corrections  
JR Blackburn, AZ Criminal Justice Commission  
Vickie Steinhoff, AZ Child Safety and Family Services  
Jill Trompter, Verizon

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks to pass items on the consent agenda (minutes of January 9, 2014 meeting). The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON REPORT:**

None

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Director FireThunder reported that the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day was a great success. She gave special thanks to the volunteers who stuffed 450 packets and

created 100 name badges. Refreshments were provided during the exhibitor fair and 450 meals were served at lunch. The workshop was coordinated by the Department of Public Safety in cooperation with the Indian Country Intelligence Network. There were between 65-95 people in attendance. Total expense was approximately \$15,000.

#### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

##### **A. Native American Caucus Meeting and Human Services Update**

Ms. Huyser deferred the presentation to Ms. Steinhoff to provide background on the most recent Native American Caucus meeting.

Ms. Steinhoff reported that the topic of the meeting was the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) that included discussion on the new Division of Child Safety and Family Services (DCSFS) agency. DCSFS Director Charles Flanagan provided an update at the meeting on the cases not investigated and the development of the Child Advocate Response Examination (CARE) Team. Currently there is no tribal representation on the CARE Team however; the Child Protective Services (CPS) work group is willing to include a tribal member that would be able to speak to ICWA issues. The CPS work group is tasked with drafting legislative language that will establish DCSFS as an independent state agency. Director Flanagan also provided a similar presentation on February 7, 2014 for the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona.

The ITCA Social Service committee plans to provide recommendations for the structure of the new agency.

Ms. Huyser indicated that there were two issues that came up during the meeting:

- 1) How many Native American children were among the cases not investigated
- 2) Expedited permanency (placement of a child in a secure home)

##### **B. Strategic Planning Session Results**

Mr. Brooks distributed a handout that outlined how the planning and prioritization subcommittee approached the overall purpose of the Commission and to effectively answer two questions, 1) What does the Commission do and 2) What do we want to achieve.

State statute indicates that the purpose of the Commission is to assist the State in providing assistance to tribal communities. To effectively answer '*What do we want to achieve*' became a three-step process that included:

- Defining the attributes of quality of life
- Identify how attributes are interpreted by the tribal community
- Prioritize those attributes

There were approximately 25-30 people representing a diverse cross section of the tribal community that participated in the session. Participants were asked to name attributes that defined a high quality of life (for example: meaningful employment and

public safety)), then each attribute was given a metric to further clarify what level of the attribute was good, adequate or unacceptable. A follow up session focused on prioritizing the attributes. Following are the attributes as defined by the session participants in order of importance:

1. Public safety
2. Infrastructure, employment, health services
3. Leadership, education
4. Social and cultural resources
5. Financial services, Tribal ownership of businesses

Mr. Castillo informed the group that the next step would be to secure meetings with Tribal Leaders and Community members to validate the outcome of the session and possibly map individual tribal priorities. He also indicated that the Commission should revisit the communities to see how things are changing. This could help validate the Committee's findings.

Mr. Castillo feels that the Commission is making progress with the Strategic Plan; and in the near future, the Commission will also be completing the annual report and responding to the Sunset Review. To summarize the action items:

- a. Meet with tribes to validate outcome of session
- b. Incorporate outcomes with Public Safety meeting and the Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day
- c. Plan for future events

Next month several entities will be coordinating a Tribal Leader Indian Education Summit; depending on the outcome of the Summit, the Commission may hold a Town Hall to focus on Indian Education.

Director FireThunder commented that the Ex-Officio members may be the most effective at sharing information with other agencies. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Blackburn also volunteered to assist with communications.

### **C. Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day Workshop**

Mr. Anderson informed the group that there were several agencies represented at the workshop including Federal, State, and Tribal agencies. Mr. Anderson also spoke about the initiatives and programs to address Public Safety concerns that had been expressed in previous discussions. He also reported on the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The state of Arizona has opted out of the program, which caused the tribes to be out of compliance due to their inability to upload sex offender information direction to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

At the workshop, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) focused on gang elements on tribal lands and reported that the Safe Streets Task Force was a success and domestic violence is being addressed more aggressively. The FBI also reported on the State of Indian Country which is above the national average as far as crime rates. The Hualapai Police Chief reported on traffic fatalities, which is also above the state average.

The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) calls for more aggressive prosecution on crimes that occurs on Indian land. A member of the audience reported not getting any response from the US Attorney's Office, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) or any other agency regarding his son's homicide. In this particular case, the US Attorney's Office was familiar with situation and agreed to follow up with victim's father.

The Indian Country Intelligent Network (ICIN) reported that they will be meeting to develop a strategic plan. They will take comments made at the workshop and develop a plan to address those concerns. They are also working on developing a more aggressive and effective approach to enforce the TLOA.

For those who are not familiar with ICIN, it is a coalition of Tribal Police Departments with an invitation to DPS to participate as a non-voting member. DPS does collaborate with ICIN at state, federal and local levels on a quarterly basis to listen to their concerns and provide them with assistance the state may have available.

Mr. Castillo asked Mr. Anderson, "What do you think is the best way for the Commission to meet our statutory requirements to assist the state in critical areas and recognize ICIN and DPS?" Mr. Anderson indicated that without a Memo of Understanding (MOU) or Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA), the DPS cannot actively assist any tribal entity. An MOU or IGA would open a line of communication and assist DPS with whatever resources they may have at the state level to address public safety issues using their own tribal codes and federal laws.

**FUTURE MEETING:**

Thursday, March 13, 2014

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Update on the Indian Education Summit and future initiatives by Ms. Debora Norris
2. Overview of the ICIN strategic plan by Chief Jesse Delmar

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.